

the bill does not limit VA's assistance to those types of claims or to a specific type of assistance. It expressly provides that nothing in the bill prevents the Secretary from rendering whatever assistance is necessary. It also does not undo some of the complementary Court decisions that require the VA to render certain additional types of assistance, such as those required in *McCormick v. Gober*.

Although VA is moving its claims adjudication system toward a team-based, case management system that will result in better service and communication with claimants, I felt that it was critical to include requirements that VA explain to claimants what information and evidence will be needed to prove their claim. VA will also be required to explain what information and evidence it would secure (e.g., medical records, service medical records, etc.) and what information the claimant should submit (e.g., marriage certificate, Social Security number, etc.). Currently, many veterans are asked for information in a piecemeal fashion and don't know what VA is doing to secure other evidence. Better communication

will lead to expedited decisionmaking and higher satisfaction in the process.

H.R. 4864, as amended, provides for retroactive applications of the bill's duty to assist provisions, as well as the enhanced notice procedures. Now, claimants that were denied due to the Morton decision will be able to have their claims readjudicated in accordance with the provisions of this bill and receive VA's full duty to assist. This will also ensure an earlier effective date if their claim is successful.

It is critical that we honor our commitment to veterans and their families. We should not create technicalities and bureaucratic hoops for them to jump through. I am pleased that Congress is able to move this provision and begin the restoration of VA's duty to assist claimants in developing the evidence and information necessary to establish their claims for veterans benefits.

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RECESS UNTIL 9:30 A.M.  
TOMORROW

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come be-

fore the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:53 p.m., recessed until Tuesday, September 26, 2000, at 9:30 a.m.

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NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate September 25, 2000:

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

DONALD L. FIXICO, OF KANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2004, VICE ALAN CHARLES KORS, TERM EXPIRED.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

PAULETTE H. HOLAHAN, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 19, 2004, VICE MARY S. FURLONG, TERM EXPIRED.

MARILYN GELL MASON, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 19, 2003, VICE JOEL DAVID VALDEZ, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JOHN J. WILSON, OF MARYLAND, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION, VICE SHELDON C. BILCHIK.